

SEDIMENT BARRIERS

GRAPHIC NOT YET AVAILABLE

This sketch shows the general requirements for properly using sediment barriers. Actual barrier layouts will vary from site to site. Acceptable sediment barriers include erosion control mix berms, silt fences, and haybale dikes.

INSTALLATION:

Install sediment barriers prior to disturbing soils on the site.

1. Install a sediment barrier at the downhill edge of each area to be disturbed.
2. Install each sediment barrier parallel to the land's contours so that the barrier is not running down the slope.
3. Curve the ends of the sediment barrier uphill so to prevent runoff from flowing around the barrier.
4. Do not have more than one-quarter acre of land draining to each 100-foot section of barrier.
5. Do not install sediment barriers across ditches, brooks, streams, or other channels.
6. Immediately mulch any area below which it is impossible to properly install or maintain a sediment barrier.

MAINTENANCE:

- ◆ Check each sediment barrier prior to every storm event to ensure the barrier is in working order. Repair any gaps, tears, or blow-outs in the barrier immediately.
- ◆ Check each sediment barrier after every storm to determine if it has been effective. Look for evidence of runoff flowing around, under, or over the barrier. Repair, reinstall, or adjust any section of the barrier where these problems are evident.
- ◆ Remove accumulated sediments trapped behind each barrier when the sediment height reaches six inches. Dispose of the sediments uphill of the barrier by working the sediments into the soil, seeding, and mulching.
- ◆ Remove each sediment barrier only after you have stabilized permanently the disturbed area draining to it.

See *Maine Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs* (3/2003) Section B-1 for more information on using sediment barriers.